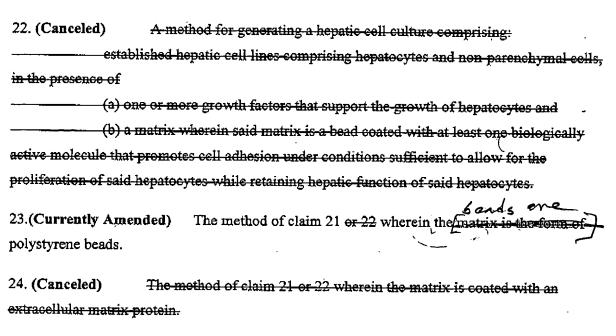
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Amendments to the Claims

- 21. (Currently amended) A method for generating a hepatic cell culture comprising: co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells derived from disaggregated liver tissue, in the presence of
- (a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and
- (b) a matrix wherein said matrix is a beads coated with at least one biologically active molecule extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.



- 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 or 22 wherein the matrix is coated with extracellular matrix protein is type I collagen.
- 26.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 or 22 wherein the growth factor is epidermal growth factor.
- 27 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 or 22 wherein the growth factor is hepatocyte growth factor.

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28.(Currently Amended) A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived using a method comprising:

co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived from disaggregated liver tissue, in the presence of

- (a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and
- (b) a matrix wherein said matrix is a beads coated with at least one biologically active molecule extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.

29. (Canceled)	A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived using a
method comprising:	
co-cult	uring established-hepatic cell lines-comprising hepatocytes and non-
parenchymal cells, in	
(a) one	or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes and
——————————————————————————————————————	atrix wherein said matrix is a bead coated with at least one biologically
active molecule that p	romotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the
prolifer ation of said-he	patocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.